A copy of the pending claims (as amended) is attached.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has objected to

5   the Oath/Declaration because of an improper signature. Claim 17 has been rejected under

§ 112. Claims 1, 9, 13-15 and 19 have been rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable

over Du (US Patent 6,052,684). Claims 2, 5-7, 11-12 and 23 have been rejected under §

103 as being unpatentable over Du in view of the InConcert reference. Claim 10 has been

rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Du in view of Okita (US Patent

10   6,243,092). Claims 3,4,16 and 18-22 are allowable.

In the Specification

The Specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors.

In the Oath/Declaration

The Examiner has objected to the Oath/Declaration because of an allegedly

15   improper signature for applicant Chan. Applicants are not sure what is improper about

Chan's signature, but are assuming that the Examiner's objection relates to the applicant

signing only his first name. After reviewing 37 CFR §1.63, Applicants can not find any

requirement relating to how the Oath/Declaration be executed. Applicants therefore

believe that the signature is valid.

20   Section 112 Rejections

Claim 17 has been canceled, making the examiners rejection moot.

Attorney Docket No.: 02365.P0015

Prior Art Rejections

Independent claim 1 has been rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Du. Allowable claim 3 has been rewritten as amended claim 1, making the Examiner's rejection moot. Note that claim 1 was amended to incorporate all the limitations of

5   claims 1, 2, and 3 and was not amended to further distinguish any prior art. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to properly depend from amended claim 1 and were not amended to further distinguish any prior art.

Independent claim 9 has been rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Du. Claim 9 has been amended to claim a workflow system including "a display device" ...

10   and "an overlay data provider for providing statistical information relating to an executing workflow to be overlayed over a workflow diagram displayed on the display device". Amended claim 9 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that allowable claim 3 is allowable.

Independent claim 13 has been rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over

15   Du. Allowable claim 18 has essentially been rewritten as amended claim 13, making the Examiner's rejection moot. Note that independent claim 13 was amended to incorporate limitations of claims 14, 15, 17, and 18 and was not amended to further distinguish any prior art. Claims 16 and 19-22 have been amended to properly depend from amended claim 13 and were not amended to further distinguish any prior art.

New Claims

New claim 24 is allowable claim 16 rewritten in independent form. New claim 25

is allowable claim 19 rewritten in independent form. New claim 26 is allowable claim 20
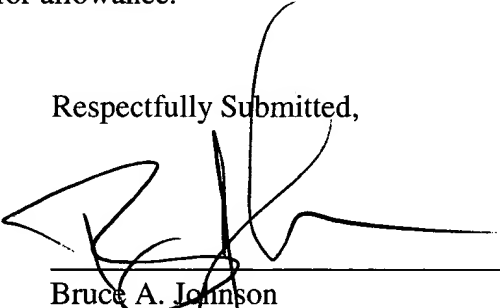
rewritten in independent form.

5   Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are patentable over the prior art. It is

further more respectfully submitted that all other matters have been addressed and

remedied and that the application is in form for allowance.

10   Respectfully Submitted,

                        9-13-02
15   Date   Bruce A. Johnson
                                                       Reg. No. 37361
                                                       Attorney for Applicant(s)

        Bruce A. Johnson
20   Johnson & Associates
        PO Box 90698
        Austin, TX 78709-0698   30163
        Tel. 512-301-9900   PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
        Fax 512-301-9915

Replacement paragraphs, as amended:

On page 30, line 16, replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

As mentioned above, the present invention is capable of displaying statistical

5   information relating to a workflow in real-time. In one embodiment, the information that

is desired to be displayed is overlaid on top of a workflow diagram displayed on the

workflow editor. Of course, the information may be displayed in other ways as well. In

one embodiment, there are three main components involved in displaying the overlay data

on the workflows. Figure 10 is a block diagram showing a workflow server engine 1002,

10   a workflow editor 1008, and an overlay data provider 1020. The function of the

workflow server engine 1002 is to execute the workflow and gather runtime statistical

data relating to each of the workflows currently being executed. The overlay data

provider 1020 is connected between the workflow server engine 1002 and the workflow

editor 1008 and functions to extract the runtime statistical information for the required

15   workflow from the workflow server engine 1002 and to provide the information to the

workflow editor 1008. The workflow editor 1008 displays the workflow and the

statistical information. An exemplary process for displaying workflow statistics is shown

in Figure 10 and described below. The first step in the process of displaying workflow

statistics is for the workflow editor 1008 to specify the workflow for which information is

20   to be displayed. Next, the workflow server engine 1002 extracts runtime statistics for the

specified workflow(s) and sends the information to the overlay data provider 1020. The

overlay data provider 1020 computes statistics on per step, per branch, and/or on an

overall workflow basis for display on the editor 1008. Finally, the information is overlaid

on the appropriate workflow diagram displayed by the workflow editor 1008. In one

25   embodiment, the workflow editor 1008 exposes an overlay interface that can be used by

clients (such as the overlay data provider 1020) to display overlay data on the workflow.

The editor 1008 does not try to interpret the data, but rather just displays the data at the

location specified on the workflow. More details about the workflow server engine and overlay data provider is provided below.

Pending Claims, as amended:

1. 1.   A method of displaying information relating to a workflow comprising the steps

2   of:

3   executing the workflow;

4   gathering statistical information relating to the execution of the workflow;

5   displaying a workflow diagram; and

6   overlaying the gathered information over the workflow diagram, wherein the overlayed

7   information indicates workflow statistics for various steps displayed in the

8   workflow diagram .

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the overlayed information indicates the number

2   of times a certain step was executed.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   selectively overlaying the gathered information over the workflow diagram.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the information is selectively displayed by

2   positioning a pointer over the display.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of color coding the displayed

2   information.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the information is color coded based on threshold

2   values.

1   9.   A workflow system comprising:

2   a workflow server engine for executing workflows;

3   a display device for displaying workflow diagrams; and

4   an overlay data provider for providing statistical information relating to an executing

5   workflow to be overlayed over a workflow diagram displayed on the display

6   device.

1   10.   The workflow system of claim 9, wherein the display device is a workflow editor.

1   13.   A method of collecting information relating to a workflow comprising the steps

2   of:

3   executing the workflow;

4   collecting statistical information relating to the execution of the workflow;

5   displaying a workflow diagram of the workflow being executed; and

6   overlaying the statistical information on the workflow diagram.

1   16.   The method of claim 13, wherein the collected statistical information includes the

2   number of times a step in the workflow is executed.

1   19.   The method of claim 13, wherein the collected statistical information includes the

2   execution time of one or more steps.

1 20. The method of claim 13, wherein the collected statistical information includes the

2 number of exceptions encountered during execution of the workflow.

1 21. The method of claim 13, wherein the collected statistical information is displayed

2 as a raw number.

1 22. The method of claim 13, wherein the collected statistical information is displayed

2 as a percentage.

1 24. A method of collecting information relating to a workflow comprising the steps

2 of:

3 executing the workflow;

4 collecting information relating to the execution of the workflow, wherein the collected

5   information includes the number of times a step in the workflow is executed; and

6 displaying the collected information.

1 25. A method of collecting information relating to a workflow comprising the steps

2 of:

3 executing the workflow;

4 collecting information relating to the execution of the workflow, wherein the collected

5   information includes the execution time of one or more steps; and

6 displaying the collected information.

Attorney Docket No.: 02365.P0015

1   26.   A method of collecting information relating to a workflow comprising the steps

2   of:

3   executing the workflow;

4   collecting information relating to the execution of the workflow, wherein the collected

5   information includes the number of exceptions encountered during execution of

6   the workflow; and

7   displaying the collected information.